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20 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

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SUBJECT: OHR Views on the OSI Provisional Scientific Intelligence Report, No. [redacted] "The Soviet Nuclear Submarine Program," 13 April 1959

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1. You are probably aware that the meetings which you and I arranged to consider OHR comments on the subject report have been concluded. The principal remaining disagreement between our two Offices on this report relates to paragraph 1 in the Summary and Conclusions. This paragraph now reads: "The Soviets could have completed their first nuclear-powered submarine in 1958 and may now have others under construction." We believe that this sentence should read: "The Soviets could have completed at least one and possibly as many as twelve nuclear-powered submarines by the end of 1958. In addition, it is believed that others are under construction." We make this point simply to give explicit recognition to the possibility that more than one nuclear-powered submarine could have been completed in 1958.

2. At the time we evaluated [redacted] OHR's views on this subject were discussed with your experts. I am forwarding a copy of this evaluation for your personal review (Tab A). In addition, I am forwarding our views on more recent reports bearing on the Soviet nuclear submarine program (Tab B), some of which we have already discussed with your people.

3. I have personally read our evaluations of this Soviet program as well as your provisional report of 13 April 1959 and have listened to oral arguments from both sides. I personally believe that the evidence is not conclusive and that we would be doing a disservice to the intelligence consumer by not admitting the possibility that more than one nuclear-powered submarine could have been completed in 1958. After reading Tabs A and B to this memorandum, you may still believe that the first paragraph of the Summary and Conclusions of your 13 April report together with related portions of the Discussion section should not be amended. If so, I would suggest that, since this question involves both Soviet production and B and D, we forward our respective views in a joint paper to the DD/I for his consideration and whatever action he deems appropriate.

[redacted]
Acting Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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